

# SFY2015 QUALITY FIRST MODEL UPDATES

- Launched in 2009, Quality First (QF) overlays a systems approach to create equal access to and quality of early learning programs
- In 2012, the First Things First State Board approved recommendation to align Quality First, Quality First Child Care Scholarships, and Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) Scholarships
- Quality First updates will focus on TWO First Things First Board-approved areas:
  1. **Access and affordability aligned with quality, and**
  2. **Incentivizing high quality for early care providers**
- Quality First Model Updates effective beginning July 1, 2014 (FY15)
  - Alignment of Quality First Child Care and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
  - Eligibility, Rates, and Slots criteria of First Things First (FTF) Scholarships
  - A “Buy-in Option” for Quality First, and
  - T.E.A.C.H.

# QUALITY FIRST COMPONENT OVERVIEW



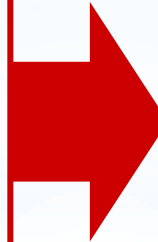
# QUALITY FIRST COMPONENT OVERVIEW



# CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

## CURRENT

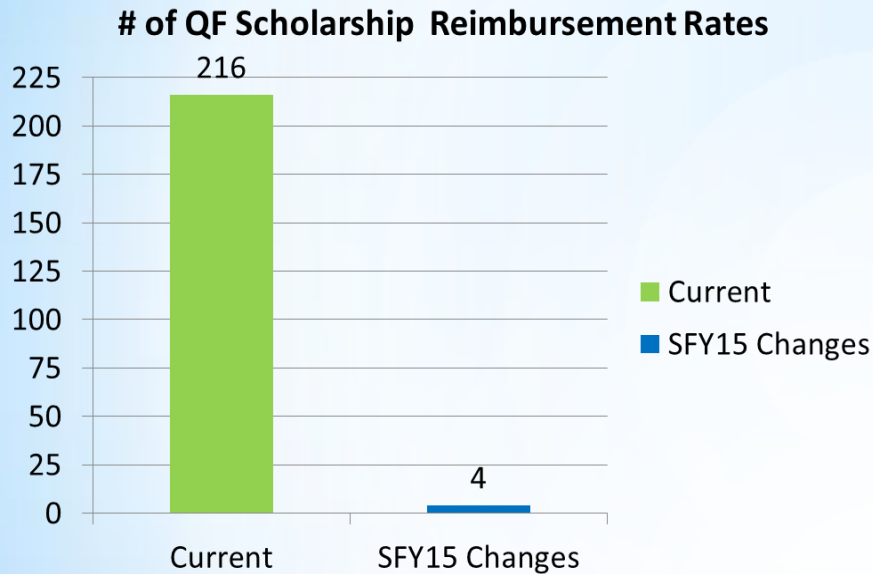
- I. Stand alone strategies - Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) is a regional strategy funded in addition to Quality First (QF) base model
- II. Pre-K programs receive scholarship during rating process; QF programs must be rated before receiving scholarships
- III. Mentoring/Technical Assistance is a required component of Pre-K scholarships strategy
- IV. QF providers on wait list are eligible for scholarships
- V. All programs to apply for Pre-K scholarships are eligible to receive them
- VI. Pre-K Scholarships are paid at a flat rate across the state regardless of size, location, or star level
- VII. Pre-K Scholarships slots have no caps; Quality First Scholarships slots are capped at determined amounts
- VIII. Quality First full participation receive financial incentives for at star levels



## SFY15 UPDATES

- I. QF and Pre-K will be aligned and re-branded as “Quality First Pre-K”
- II. All new programs must be rated prior to receiving scholarships
- III. Pre-K Mentoring/Technical Assistance is funded at discretion of Regional Councils
- IV. Programs on QF wait list will not be eligible for scholarships
- V. Early education programs at 3 to 5 star levels only will be eligible to receive QF Pre-K Scholarships
- VI. Rates will align with the cost of quality
- VII. Programs achieving higher star ratings will receive more scholarships
- VIII. 3 to 5 star programs will not be eligible for financial incentives

# SCHOLARSHIPS RATES



Currently scholarships are based on a percentage of the 2010 DES Market Rate Survey (MRS) and are tiered based on star rating. Taking all variables into account, FTF currently reimburses Quality First Scholarships at 216 different rates:

- 6 DES Districts
- 3 separate provider types
- 3 age bands for scholarship eligible children
- 4 reimbursement tiers based on QF star level

Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships are paid uniformly at one flat rate of \$600 per month.

## FY15 PROPOSED ANNUAL RATES

The proposed rates:

1. Ensures that rates are aligned with the cost of quality
2. Simply the rate structure

		1 Star	2 Star	3-5 Stars
Centers	0-36 mos.	\$ -	\$7,969	\$11,300
	37-72 mos.	\$ -	\$6,000	\$ 7,300
Homes	0-36 mos.	\$ -	\$5,625	\$ 7,600
	37-72 mos.	\$ -	\$4,875	\$ 6,200

## STAR RATINGS

### CURRENT

- I. The Quality First Rating Assessments - CLASS, ERS, and FTF Point Scale are tools utilized to measure the quality for early care programs
- II. Quality First full participation allows providers at all five star levels to receive scholarships on a **tiered** reimbursement scale
- III. No buy-in QF rating system existed



### SFY15 UPDATES

- I. Re-branding of FTF's Pre-K Scholarships with Quality First will allow families to connect quality with early child care
- II. FTF will prioritize assessments of new QF enrollees to better the chances of receiving a star rating that is eligible to receive scholarships
- III. Providers will be able to buy-in to QF Rating Only package. Private businesses, philanthropists, tribes or other entities can sponsor additional QF sites.

## T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIPS

### CURRENT

- I. T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships are guaranteed and pooled by those scholarships that are deferred by Quality First programs



### SFY15 UPDATES

- I. Quality First sites will not be guaranteed a specific number of slots, but on a first priority status